(c) whether Government propose to increase the amount in the coming years; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) by when "Operation Black Board" is likely to be completed in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (d) An amount of Rs. 1194.10 lakhs under the scheme of Operation Blackboard has been sanctioned to Government of Madhya Pradesh in 1987-88 to be utilised by them. No amount has been fixed for release in 1988-99 or 1989-90 as it will be based on actual deficiency of teaching learning material and second teachers reflected in the block project reports and sanctioned by State Level Empowered Committee. As per the scheme the entire State is expected to be covered by 1990.

Direct train from Kanyakumari to Madras

2242. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of Kanyakumari districts have no direct train facilities to Madras;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken for connecting Nellai Express to Kanyakumari by way of coordinating the time schedules?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Connecting trains are, however, available both via Trivandrum on Broad gauge and via Tirunelveli on the Metre gauge.

(c) Nellai Express arrives Tirunelveli at 9 A.M. and provides connection to Nagercoil passenger leaving at 10 A.M.

News item captioned "Shikshakon se Batchit Ke Liye Mantri Ko Phursat Nahin"

2243. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTHY:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
DR. NAGEN SAIKIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in Mahanagar (Delhi edition) of *Navbharat Times dated the 30th January*, 1988 captioned "Shikshakon Se Batchit Ke Liye Mantri Ko Phursat Nahin";

(b) whether he has since negotiated with All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association if so, when; and

(c) the details of the decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association has submitted memoranda to the Minister of State for Education and Culture who is also the Chairman of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. After the grant of recognition to service associations of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan employees, their demands have to be appropriately discussed in the Staff Council of Joint Consultative Machinery. The JCM could not be constituted earlier because of stay orders granted by the Delhi High Court on the petition of All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers' Association After the vacation of stay order by the Delhi High Court, the Staff Council under JCM has been constituted which provides a suitable forum for consultation between the Associations and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.